

**California Department of Transportation  
Native American Advisory Committee  
Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
January 5, 2005**

Chairman Joseph Myers called the meeting to order at 9:10 am.

**Blessing:** Chairman Myers led the blessing.

**Welcome and Introductions:** Chairman Myers welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made before the Roll Call.

**Roll Call:** Committee members in attendance were Elaine Fink Tribal Chair for Pat Beihn, Joel Bravo, Samuel Elizondo, Joseph Garcia Sr., Bruce Klein alternate for Mervin Hess, Chairman Deron Marquez, Joseph Myers, Dave Nenna, Lorenda Sanchez, Garth Sundberg, Kathy Wallace, and Ernest Woodson.

Director's Representatives in attendance were Joan Sollenberger Division Chief, Division of Transportation Planning, Sharon Scherzinger, Office Chief of the Office of Regional and Interagency Planning and Cynthia Gomez, Chief of the Native American Liaison Branch (NALB).

**Others in attendance:** Lee Bigwater, CA/NV- TTAP; Kathleen Sartorius, Department of Transportation (DOT) North Region; Alex Morales, DOT Civil Rights; Blesilda Gebreyesus, DOT District 4; Demery Bill, Grindstone Rancheria; Mario Orso, DOT District 11; Kathleen McClaflin, DOT District 10; Stacy Dixon, Susanville Indian Rancheria; Greg King, DOT Headquarters; Cassandra Hensher, self; Jerry J. Paresa, San Manuel; Jila Priebe, DOT Headquarters; Valarie Smith, DOT Headquarters; Larry Myers, Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC); Carol Gobbets, NAHC; Scott Morgan, Office of Planning and Research (OPR); Bridgett O' Keeffe, OPR; Ronda Mottlow, Big Valley Rancheria; and Joseph Silvas, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Northern California.

**Adopt Agenda:** No action taken to adopt the agenda.

**Approve Minutes:** No action taken to adopt the minutes.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Introduction of New Members**

Chairman Myers introduced the new members serving on the Native American Advisory Committee (NAAC) for the term 2005 to 2007. The newest members were Pat Beihn from the North Fork Rancheria, Richard Myers from the Yurok Tribe, and Ernest Woodson from the Big Valley Rancheria.

**Selection For Chairperson and Secretary**

Chairman Myers opened the floor for nominations for the Chair position. Member Sundberg moved that Joseph Myers be nominated for NAAC Chairman, seconded by Member Garcia Sr. Chairman Myers opened the floor for nominations for the Secretary position. Member Neena moved that Member Elizondo be nominated for Secretary, seconded by Chairman Myers. Member Neena moved to close the nominations, seconded by Chairman Myers. Chairman Myers was re-elected as Chairman and Member Elizondo was elected Secretary. Voted, 12 Yes, 0 Against.

### **Appreciation Certificates Presentation**

Sharon Scherzinger presented certificates to those who served on the Committee the previous term for their dedication and hard work. Those members were Samuel Elizondo, Joseph Garcia Sr., Joseph Myers, Lorenda Sanchez, and Kathy Wallace. Others who received certificates for their previous term served, but were not in attendance were members Janice McGinnis, Martin D. Martinez III, and Patricia Ockert.

### **Membership Alternate Information Form**

Jila Priebe requested that the NAAC members fill out the membership and alternate form and return by the end of the meeting or fax so that the NALB could keep files updated.

### **Legislative Subcommittee Report**

Although Member Ockert was not in attendance to present the legislative subcommittee report, Cynthia mentioned that there was a list of bills in each ones packets for review. She mentioned that Larry Myers from the NAHC would cover Senate Bill (SB) 18. Member Neena mentioned Assembly Bill 31 and that Tule River opposed it. He stated that this bill has not been made clear to the tribal chair and other tribes in the area. Cynthia pointed out that there is a website for those who wanted to track the bills for their own clarification.

### **Environmental Subcommittee Report**

Jila Priebe stated that she and Member Ockert, Member Scerato, and Member Loya had a conference call and they showed interest in continuing the subcommittee in Southern California. Jila mentioned that she was working under their direction waiting for a response on how they wanted to proceed. Chairman Myers postponed further discussion until the members of the subcommittee had a meeting.

### **Highway Landscaping Subcommittee Report**

Member Wallace mentioned that the subcommittee is working to compile a packet to assist Tribes and Caltrans on how to select, use and find native plants. The packet will include contact information to assist proper communication between Caltrans and tribes. Member Wallace also announced that there is a working meeting scheduled for January

25, 2005 from 10am to 3pm at the Woodland Facility and anyone is welcome to attend. Member Wallace also mentioned that a draft would be available at the next NAAC meeting.

### **Scotts Valley Rancheria - Follow Up**

Chairman Myers informed the NAAC that the representative from Scotts Valley Rancheria was not able to attend; however, the representative from District 1 was not responsive to the Indian and general community. Chairman Myers asked Kathleen Sartorius to give a follow up. Kathleen said that the District was planning a vertical curve correction in the summer. Kathleen stated that the vertical curve correction must be done before the signal is installed. She also mentioned that the District will do a new traffic and corridor study and that she was setting up a meeting with Rob Brown, Lake County supervisor, later this month.

Chairman Myers asked Ronda Mottlow from Big Valley if they are affected. Ronda stated that it is hard to keep traffic flowing and that there are a lot of traffic accidents.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **PRESENTATION OF SB 18**

Larry Myers from the NAHC gave a presentation, summarizing SB18. The bill would include federally recognized California Native American tribe and nonfederally recognized California Native American tribe on the contact list maintained by the NAHC among those entities and organizations that may acquire and hold conservation easements as specified. Larry also mentioned that this bill would require that, by March 1, 2005 the guidelines contain suggestions for how the NAHC consults with California Native American tribes.

Larry announced that there is a meeting scheduled for February 3, 2005 at Rumsey Rancheria to discuss more detail of SB 18 and recommendations for the governor's office.

### **General Plan, Environmental Justice**

Scott Morgan and Bridget O'Keeffe from the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) gave a presentation on OPR's responsibility of SB18. Scott mentioned that OPR is required to implement various long range planning and research policies and goals that are intended to shape statewide development patterns and significantly influence the quality of the state's environment. OPR must also adopt guidelines for the preparation and content of the mandatory elements required in city and county General Plan. Scott pointed out that since SB 18 has passed, prior to the adoption or any amendment of a city or county's General Plans, the city shall conduct consultation.

Bridget O’Keeffe stressed that SB 18 would help relationship building with tribes and governments. She pointed out that this bill could help alleviate project stress and educate cities and counties of tribes since the bill obligates cities and counties to consult with tribes.

### **Long-Range Transportation Planning Workshops**

Jila Priebe reported that the department is working with Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and CA/NV Tribal Technical Assistance Program (TTAP) on the workshops. The first workshop was in Hoopa and it went well, and the evaluations are still being reviewed. There are tentative workshops scheduled for January 2005. One workshop will be in the Fresno area and another in Southern California.

### **BIA-IRR High Priority Project**

Cynthia shared information regarding the Indian Reservation Road Program High Priority Project (IRR-HPP) indicating how tribes could apply for special funding. Although the deadline has passed, December 31, 2004, tribes can use this as a reference to apply the following year.

### **Comments**

Jila mentioned that Leroy Gishi needed a whole day to give a presentation on the Final Rule. There are discussions about providing workshops for tribes and others with information regarding the Final Rule. There will be at least three workshops in northern, central, and southern California. They will be one-day workshops.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.